

REMARKSStatus of claims

Claims 10-16 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-9 have been withdrawn.

Claim 17 has been canceled.

Response to Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (GB 2,091,274) in view of Flexman (US 5,318,813) for reasons stated in the office action of December 1, 2008. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection.

The Examiner suggests it would have been obvious to substitute the polyacetal polyamide blend of Flexman for the polyacetal resin of Suzuki in order to use a resin with improved stiffness, elongation and toughness (properties present in the Flexman composition) to arrive at the process of applicant's invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants invention is a process for coating polyacetal articles using a specific polyacetal substrate comprising 90 – 99.5wt% polyacetal and 0.5 – 10wt% of semicrystalline or amorphous thermoplastic non-polyacetal resin; wherein said semicrystalline or amorphous thermoplastic non-polyacetal resin comprises a blend of first and second polyamides, each having melt viscosity at 200°C of less than 50,000 poise measured at a shear stress of 105 dynes/cm²; and each has a melting point of less than about 180°C and wherein the second polyamide is present in an amount equal to or less than the first polyamide in the range 0.1 - 2.5wt%. The specific polyacetal substrate gives surprising and unexpected coating and adhesion properties when surface treated and coated with a 1K paint system. As will be discussed in detail below, the cited references or various combinations of references do not motivate or suggest one of ordinary skill to the specific invention.

The "obviousness" rationale requires choosing from a finite number of predictable solutions and a reasonable expectation of success, as indicated in MPEP 2143.02.

Applicants believe the above disclosures are non-specific in nature. They do not offer a finite number of predictable solutions. Although Flexman discloses a polyacetal composition having a component (c) 1-59 wt % of at least one amorphous thermoplastic,

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SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. In order to expedite disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below to resolve any remaining issues. If there are any fees due which have not been accounted for, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



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